UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

STEPHEN HARRISON COCKBURN, :

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v. : CIVIL ACTION No. 10-1407-JS

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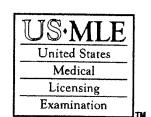
NATIONAL BOARD OF MEDICAL

EXAMINERS.

DECLARATION OF CATHERINE FARMER

EXHIBITS 1-11

United States Medical Licensing Examination™



GUIDELINES TO REQUEST TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

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Test Accommodations

How to Request Test Accommodations

- Read the Guidelines carefully.
 - Share them with the professional who will be helping you prepare your documentation.
- Read the instructions for completing the Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations.
- Complete the Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations or the Step 2 Clinical Skills Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations.
 - Be sure to sign the request form where indicated.
- 4. If appropriate, have your medical school complete the Certification of Prior Test Accommodations form.
- 5. Attach documentation of the disability and your need for accommodation.
 - Compare your documentation with the information listed in these guidelines to ensure a complete submission.
 - Incomplete documentation will delay processing of your request.
- 6. Send your request for test accommodations and supporting documentation to the appropriate registration entity as noted below:

Examination:	Type of applicant:	To request test accommodations, contact:
Step 1 or Step 2 (CK or CS)	Students and graduates of medical schools in the United States and Canada	Disability Services National Board of Medical Examiners 3750 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-3190 (215) 590-9509
Step 1 or Step 2 (CK or CS)	Students and graduates of medical schools outside the United States and Canada	Test Accommodations Coordinator Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates 3624 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA (215) 386-5900
Step 3	All medical school graduates who have passed Step 1 and Step 2	Coordinator for Special Examination Services Federation of State Medical Boards PO Box 619850 Dallas, TX 75261-9850

Mail your request for test accommodations to the address above at the same time you mail your examination application to the address shown in the registration materials.

DO NOT SUBMIT:

- · Original documents; keep the original and submit a copy
- · Research articles, resumes, curriculum vitas
- · Handwritten letters from physicians or evaluators
- · Documentation previously submitted to Disability Services
- · Documentation previously submitted to your registration entity
- Previous correspondence from Disability Services
- Multiple copies of documentation (i.e., faxed and mailed copies of a document)
- · Staples, clips, binders, page protectors, folders, or similar items

Please note that submitting duplicate documentation and/or bound documentation may delay a decision regarding your request as all documentation must be processed.

DO SUBMIT:

- Legible copies
- · All documents in English. You are responsible for providing certified English translations of foreign-language documentation
- Typed or printed letters and reports from evaluators
- Documentation from childhood if you are requesting accommodations based on a developmental disorder, i.e. LD, ADHD, Dyslexia
- · Documentation of your functional impairment in activities beyond test-taking
- · Documentation of your functional impairment beyond self-report

Introduction

The United States Medical Licensing Examination Program provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodation. Examinees are informed of the availability of test accommodations in the USMLE Bulletin of Information, Application Instructions, and at the USMLE website.

The following information is provided for examinees, evaluators, medical school student affairs staff, faculty and others involved in the process of documenting a request for test accommodations. Applicants requesting test accommodations should share these guidelines with their evaluator, therapist, treating physician, etc., so that appropriate documentation can be assembled to support the request for test accommodations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and accompanying regulations define a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, seeing, hearing, or learning. The purpose of documentation is to validate that the individual is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act as a disabled individual.

The purpose of accommodations is to provide equal access to the USMLE testing program. Accommodations "match up" with the identified functional limitation so that the area of impairment is alleviated by an auxiliary aid or adjustment to the testing procedure. Functional limitation refers to the behavioral manifestations of the disability that impede the individual's ability to function, i.e., what someone cannot do on a regular and continuing basis as a result of the disability. For example, a functional limitation might be impaired vision so that the individual is unable to view the examination in the standard font size. An appropriate accommodation might be text enlargement. It is essential that the documentation provide a clear explanation of the functional impairment and a rationale for the requested accommodation.

While presumably the use of accommodations in the test activity will enable the individual to better demonstrate his/her knowledge mastery, accommodations are not a guarantee of improved performance, test completion or a passing score.

General Guidelines for all Disabilities

The following guidelines are provided to assist the applicant in documenting a need for accommodation based on an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Documentation submitted in support of a request may be referred to experts in the appropriate area of disability for a fair and impartial professional review.

The examinee must personally initiate a written request for accommodations or for release of information relative to an accommodations request. All documentation submitted in support of a request for accommodations is confidential. No information concerning a request for accommodations is released without a written request from the examinee. Accommodations requests by a third party (such as an evaluator or medical school) cannot be honored.

To support a request for test accommodations, please submit the following:

- Completed Step 1 and Step 2 CK Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations or Step 2 CS Applicant's Request for Test
 Accommodations.
- 2. A detailed, comprehensive written report describing your disability and its severity and justifying the need for the requested accommodations.

The following characteristics are expected of all documentation submitted in support of a request for accommodations. Documentation must:

state a specific diagnosis of the disability.

A professionally recognized diagnosis for the particular category of disability is expected, e.g., the DSM-IV diagnostic categories for learning disorders.

be current.

Because the provision of reasonable accommodations is based on assessment of the current impact of the examinee's disability on the testing activity, it is in the individual's best interest to provide recent documentation. As the manifestations of a disability may vary over time and in different settings, in most cases an evaluation should have been conducted within the past three years, e.g., visual or neuromuscular conditions are often subject to change and should be updated for current functioning.

describe the specific diagnostic criteria and name the diagnostic tests used, including date(s) of evaluation, specific test results and a detailed interpretation of the test results.

This description should include the results of diagnostic procedures and tests utilized and should include relevant educational, developmental, and medical history. Specific test results should be reported to support the diagnosis, e.g., documentation for an examinee with multiple sclerosis should include specific findings on the neurological examination including functional limitations and MRI or other studies, if relevant.

Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and current professional practices within the field. Informal or non-standardized evaluations should be described in enough detail that other professionals could understand their role and significance in the diagnostic process.

describe in detail the individual's limitations due to the diagnosed disability, i.e., a demonstrated impact on functioning vis-a-vis the USMLE and explain the relationship of the test results to the identified limitations resulting from the disability. The current functional impact on physical, perceptual and cognitive abilities should be fully described, e.g., an examinee with macular degeneration has reduced central vision which limits the ability to read.

recommend specific accommodations and/or assistive devices including a detailed explanation of why these accommodations or devices are needed and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitations, e.g., a learning disabled individual who has difficulty decoding might require an oral rendition of the exam.

establish the professional credentials of the evaluator that qualify him/her to make the particular diagnosis, including information about license or certification and specialization in the area of the diagnosis. The evaluator should present evidence of comprehensive training and direct experience in the diagnosis and treatment of adults in the specific area of disability.

3. If no prior accommodations have been provided, the qualified professional expert should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.

Learning Disorders

Documentation for applicants submitting a request for accommodations based on a learning disorder or other cognitive impairment should contain all of the items listed in the General Guidelines section. The following information explains the additional issues documentation must address relative to learning disorders.

- The evaluation must be conducted by a qualified professional.
 The diagnostician must have comprehensive training in the field of learning disorders and must have comprehensive training and direct experience in working with an adult population.
- 2. Testing/assessment must be current.

 The determination of whether an individual is significantly limited in functioning according to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria is based on assessment of the current impact of the impairment. (See General Guidelines). A developmental disorder such as a learning disorder originates in childhood and, therefore, information which demonstrates a history of
- Documentation must be comprehensive.
 Objective evidence of a substantial limitation in cognition or learning must be provided. At a minimum, the comprehensive evaluation should include the following:

A diagnostic interview and history taking

impaired functioning should also be provided.

Because learning disorders are commonly manifested during childhood, though not always formally diagnosed, relevant historical information regarding the individual's academic history and learning processes in elementary, secondary and postsecondary education should be investigated and documented. The report of assessment should include a summary of a comprehensive diagnostic interview that includes relevant background information to support the diagnosis. In addition to the candidate's self-report, the report of assessment should include:

- A description of the presenting problem(s);
- A developmental history;
- Relevant academic history including results of prior standardized testing, reports of classroom performance and behaviors including transcripts, study habits and attitudes and notable trends in academic performance;
- · Relevant family history, including primary language of the home and current level of fluency in English;
- · Relevant psychosocial history;
- · Relevant medical history including the absence of a medical basis for the present symptoms;
- Relevant employment history;
- A discussion of dual diagnosis, alternative or co-existing mood, behavioral, neurological and/or personality disorders along with any history of relevant medication and current use that may impact the individual's learning; and
- · Exploration of possible alternatives that may mimic a learning disorder when, in fact, one is not present

A psychoeducational or neuropsychological evaluation

The psychoeducational or neuropsychological evaluation must be submitted on the letterhead of a qualified professional and it must provide clear and specific evidence that a learning or cognitive disability does or does not exist.

Assessment must consist of a comprehensive battery of tests

A diagnosis must be based on the aggregate of test results, history and level of current functioning. It is not acceptable to base a diagnosis on only one or two subtests.

Objective evidence of a substantial limitation to learning must be presented.

Tests must be appropriately normed for the age of the patient and must be administered in the designated standardized manner.

Minimally, the domains to be addressed should include the following:

Cognitive Functioning

A complete cognitive assessment is essential with all subtests and standard scores reported. Acceptable measures include but are not limited to: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III); Woodcock Johnson Psychoeducational Battery-III (WJ-III): Tests of Cognitive Ability; Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test.

Achievement

A comprehensive achievement battery with all subtests and standard scores is essential. The battery must include current levels of academic functioning in relevant areas such as reading (decoding and comprehension) and mathematics. Acceptable instruments include, but are not limited to, the Woodcock-Johnson Psychoeducational Battery-III (WJ-III): Tests of Achievement; The Scholastic Abilities Test for Adults (SATA); Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests-III (WRMT).

Specific achievement tests are useful instruments when administered under standardized conditions and when interpreted within the context of other diagnostic information. The Wide Range Achievement Test-3 (WRAT-3) and the Nelson-Denny Reading Test are not comprehensive diagnostic measures of achievement and therefore neither is acceptable if used as the sole measure of achievement.

Information Processing

Specific areas of information processing (e.g., short- and long-term memory, sequential memory, auditory and visual perception/processing, auditory and phonological awareness, processing speed, executive functioning, motor ability) must be assessed. Acceptable measures include, but are not limited to, the Detroit Tests of Learning Aptitude - Adult (DTLA-A), Wechsler Memory Scale-III (WMS-III), information from the Woodcock Johnson Psychoeducational Battery-III (WJ-III): Tests of Cognitive Ability, as well as other relevant instruments that may be used to address these areas.

Other Assessment Measures

Other formal assessment measures or nonstandard measures and informal assessment procedures or observations may be integrated with the above instruments to help support a differential diagnosis or to disentangle the learning disability from co-existing neurological and/or psychiatric issues. In addition to standardized test batteries, nonstandardized measures and informal assessment procedures may be helpful in determining performance across a variety of domains.

Actual test scores must be provided (standard scores where available). Evaluators should use the most recent form of tests and should identify the specific test form as well as the norms used to compute scores. It is helpful to list all test data in a score summary sheet appended to the evaluation. Age norms where available should be provided.

Records of academic history should be provided.

Because learning disabilities are most commonly manifested during childhood, relevant records detailing learning processes and difficulties in elementary, secondary and postsecondary education should be included. Such records as grade reports, transcripts, teachers' comments and the like will serve to substantiate self-reported academic difficulties in the past and currently.

Provide score reports for standardized tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, MCAT) and indicate what, if any, accommodations were provided.

A differential diagnosis must be reviewed and various possible alternative causes for the identified problems in academic achievement should be ruled out. The evaluation should address key constructs underlying the concept of learning disabilities and provide clear and specific evidence of the information processing deficit(s) and how these deficits currently impair the individual's ability to learn. No single test or subtest is a sufficient basis for a diagnosis.

- The differential diagnosis must demonstrate that:
- Significant difficulties persist in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing or reasoning skills.
- The problems being experienced are not primarily due to lack of exposure to the behaviors needed for academic learning or to an inadequate match between the individual's ability and the instructional demands.

A clinical summary must be provided.

A well-written diagnostic summary based on a comprehensive evaluative process is a necessary component of the report. Assessment instruments and the data they provide do not diagnose; rather, they provide important data that must be integrated with background information, historical information and current functioning. It is essential then that the evaluator integrate all information gathered in a well-developed clinical summary. The following elements must be included in the clinical summary:

- Demonstration of the evaluators having ruled out alternative explanations for the identified academic problems as a result of poor education, poor motivation and/or study skills, emotional problems, attentional problems and cultural or language differences;
- Indication of how patterns in cognitive ability, achievement and information processing are used to determine the
 presence of a learning disability;
- Indication of the substantial limitation to learning presented by the learning disability and the degree to which it impacts the individual in the context of the USMLE; and
- Indication as to why specific accommodations are needed and how the effects of the specific disability are mediated by the recommended accommodation(s).

Problems such as test anxiety, English as a second language (in and of itself), slow reading without an identified underlying cognitive deficit or failure to achieve a desired academic outcome are not learning disabilities and therefore are not covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each accommodation recommended by the evaluator must include a rationale.

The evaluator must describe the impact the diagnosed learning disability has on a specific major life activity as well as the degree of significance of this impact on the individual. The diagnostic report must include specific recommendations for accommodations and a detailed explanation as to why each accommodation is recommended. Recommendations must be tied to specific test results or clinical observations. The documentation should include any record of prior accommodation or auxiliary aids, including any information about specific conditions under which the accommodations were used and whether or not they were effective. However, a prior history of accommodation, without demonstration of a current need, does not in and of itself warrant the provision of a like accommodation. If no prior accommodation(s) has been provided, the qualified professional expert should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodation(s) was used in the past and why accommodation(s) is needed at this time.

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Documentation for applicants submitting a request for accommodations based on an Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) should contain all of the items listed in the General Guidelines section. The following information explains the additional issues documentation must address relative to ADHD.

1. The evaluation must be conducted by a qualified diagnostician.

Professionals conducting assessments and rendering diagnoses of ADHD must be qualified to do so. Comprehensive training in the differential diagnosis of ADHD and other psychiatric disorders and direct experience in diagnosis and treatment of adults is necessary. The evaluator's name, title and professional credentials, including information about license or certification as well as the area of specialization, employment and state in which the individual practices should be clearly stated in the documentation.

2. Testing/assessment must be current.

The determination of whether an individual is "significantly limited" in functioning is based on assessment of the current impact of the impairment on the USMLE testing program. (See General Guidelines)

3. Documentation necessary to substantiate the Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder must be comprehensive.

Because ADHD is, by definition, first exhibited in childhood (although it may not have been formally diagnosed) and in more than one setting, objective, relevant, historical information is essential. Information verifying a chronic course of ADHD symptoms from childhood through adolescence to adulthood, such as educational transcripts, report cards, teacher comments, tutoring evaluations, job assessments and the like are necessary.

- a. The evaluator is expected to review and discuss DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for ADHD and describe the extent to which the patient meets these criteria. The report must include information about the specific symptoms exhibited and document that the patient meets criteria for long-standing history, impairment and pervasiveness.
- b. A history of the individual's presenting symptoms must be provided, including evidence of ongoing impulsive/hyperactive or inattentive behaviors (as specified in DSM-IV) that significantly impair functioning in two or more settings.
- c. The information collected by the evaluator must consist of more than self-report. Information from third party sources is critical in the diagnosis of adult ADHD. Information gathered in the diagnostic interview and reported in the evaluation should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - History of presenting attentional symptoms, including evidence of ongoing impulsive/hyperactive or inattentive behavior that has significantly impaired functioning over time;
 - Developmental history;
 - Family history for presence of ADHD and other educational, learning, physical or psychological difficulties deemed relevant by the examiner;
 - · Relevant medical and medication history, including the absence of a medical basis for the symptoms being evaluated;
 - Relevant psychosocial history and any relevant interventions;
 - A thorough academic history of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education;
 - Review of psychoeducational test reports to determine if a pattern of strengths or weaknesses is supportive of attention or learning problems;
 - Evidence of impairment in several life settings (home, school, work, etc.) and evidence that the disorder significantly restricts one or more major life activities.
 - Relevant employment history;
 - Description of current functional limitations relative to an educational setting and to USMLE in particular that are presumably a direct result of the described problems with attention;
 - A discussion of the differential diagnosis, including alternative or co-existing mood, behavioral, neurological and/or personality disorders that may confound the diagnosis of ADHD;

Exploration of possible alternative diagnoses that may mimic ADHD; and

4. Relevant Assessment Batteries

A neuropsychological or psychoeducational assessment may be necessary in order to determine the individual's pattern of strengths or weaknesses and to determine whether there are patterns supportive of attention problems. Test scores or subtest scores alone should not be used as the sole basis for the diagnostic decision. Scores from subtests on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - III (WAIS - III), memory functions tests, attention or tracking tests or continuous performance tests do not in and of themselves establish the presence or absence of ADHD. They may, however, be useful as one part of the process in developing clinical hypotheses. Checklists and/or surveys can serve to supplement the diagnostic profile but by themselves are not adequate for the diagnosis of ADHD. When testing is used, standard scores must be provided for all normed measures.

· Age norms where available

5. Identification of DSM-IV Criteria

A diagnostic report must include a review of the DSM-IV criteria for ADHD both currently and retrospectively and specify which symptoms are present (see DSM-IV for specific criteria). According to DSM-IV, "the essential feature of ADHD is a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development." Other criteria include:

- a. Symptoms of hyperactivity-impulsivity or inattention that cause impairment that were present in childhood.
- b. Current symptoms that have been present for at least the past six months.
- c. Impairment from the symptoms present in two or more settings (school, work, home).

6. Documentation Must Include a Specific Diagnosis

The report must include a specific diagnosis of ADHDbased on the DSM-IV diagnostic criteria. Individuals who report problems with organization, test anxiety, memory and concentration only on a situational basis do not fit the prescribed diagnostic criteria for ADHD. Given that many individuals benefit from prescribed medications and therapies, a positive response to medication by itself is not supportive of a diagnosis, nor does the use of medication in and of itself either support or negate the need for accommodation.

7. A Clinical Summary Must Be Provided

A well-written diagnostic summary based on a comprehensive evaluative process is a necessary component of the assessment. The clinical summary must include:

- a. Demonstration of the evaluators having ruled out alternative explanations for inattentiveness, impulsivity, and/or hyperactivity as a result of psychological or medical disorders or non-cognitive factors;
- b. Indication of how patterns of inattentiveness, impulsivity and/or hyperactivity across the life span and across settings are used to determine the presence of ADHD;
- c. Indication of the substantial limitation to learning presented by ADHD and the degree to which it impacts the individual in the context for which accommodations are being requested (e.g., impact on the USMLE program); and
- d. Indication as to why specific accommodations are needed and how the effects of ADHD symptoms, as designated by the DSM-IV, are mediated by the accommodation(s).

8. Each accommodation recommended by the evaluator must include a rationale.

The evaluator must describe the impact of ADHD (if one exists) on a specific major life activity as well as the degree of

significance of this impact on the individual. The diagnostic report must include specific recommendations for accommodations. A detailed explanation must be provided as to why each accommodation is recommended and should be correlated with specific identified functional limitations. Prior documentation may have been useful in determining appropriate services in the past. However, documentation should validate the need for accommodation based on the individual's current level of functioning. The documentation should include any record of prior accommodation or auxiliary aid, including information about specific conditions under which the accommodation was used (e.g., standardized testing, final exams, NBME subject exams, etc.). However, a prior history of accommodation without demonstration of a current need does not in itself warrant the provision of a similar accommodation. If no prior accommodation has been provided, the qualified professional and/or individual being evaluated should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodation was used in the past and why accommodation is needed at this time.

Because of the challenge of distinguishing ADHD from normal developmental patterns and behaviors of adults, including procrastination, disorganization, distractibility, restlessness, boredom, academic underachievement or failure, low self-esteem and chronic tardiness or inattendance, a multifaceted evaluation must address the intensity and frequency of the symptoms and whether these behaviors constitute an impairment in a major life activity.

Guidelines for Documenting Vision Impairments

In addition to the General Guidelines for all disabilities, the following information is provided to assist the applicant in documenting a need for accommodation based on a visual impairment.

Comprehensive evaluation reports of visual functioning should include:

- A detailed discussion of how the individual's specific signs, symptoms, and assessment results meet professionally recognized diagnostic criteria for the identified visual impairment. Relevant history and course of the presenting symptoms should be provided and the documentation should identify whether the condition is stable or could be expected to fluctuate. The individual's best corrected visual acuities, for both distance and near, must be specified. Where relevant to the diagnosis, comprehensive documentation should also include detailed information about the health of the eye(s), visual fields, binocular functioning, accommodative functioning, oculomotor functioning, and/or other pertinent information.
- Actual scores and results from all tests, procedures, measurements, and scales administered to demonstrate the level of
 impairment to vision functioning must be provided. These assessment data are imperative to allow for a professional
 review. When relevant to the impairment, examples of such data are: visual acuities (best-corrected for near and distance),
 visual field print-outs, specific tests of accommodation (e.g., relative accommodation, amplitudes, facility, dynamic or nearpoint retinoscopy), specific tests of vergence (e.g., nearpoint of convergence, cover test, prism vergences, facility), specific
 tests of reading eye movements (e.g., Developmental Eye Movement test, photo-electric oculogram).
- Detailed information about what therapy, medication, and low-vision aids are being used to treat the impairment, and the effectiveness of these interventions, including all relevant post-therapy data.
- Specific information concerning the current functional limitations imposed by the visual impairment (what the individual can and cannot do on a regular and continuing basis).
- A specific recommendation for all accommodations requested, including low vision aids, and an explanation of how the
 accommodations will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitations on the testing activity.
- Documentation should be typewritten and submitted on the professional's letterhead and be signed and dated by the evaluator. Handwritten notes, letters, or prescriptions are not sufficient to demonstrate substantial visual impairments.

Visual impairment in one eye only can often significantly impact the ability to perform three-dimensional tasks, such as driving or playing some sports. However, monocular conditions, in and of themselves, have not been shown to cause a substantial limitation in the ability to read or perform other two-dimensional tasks at near. Therefore, requests for accommodations for computer-based tests based on visual impairment in only one eye need to provide data to demonstrate reduced functioning in the fellow eye, such as of accommodation (focusing) or reading eye movements (saccades).

What to Do

USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS

TO PROTECT YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY, ALWAYS SEND YOUR REQUEST AND DOCUMENTATION TOGETHER TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. Do not include these materials with your examination application.

Address all requests and inquiries to the appropriate registration entity:

Examination:	Type of applicant:	To request test accommodations, contact:
Step 1 or Step 2 (CK or CS)	Students and graduates of medical schools in the United States and Canada	Disability Services National Board of Medical Examiners 3750 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-3190 (215) 590-9509
Step 1 or Step 2 (CK or CS)	Students and graduates of medical schools outside the United States and Canada	Test Accommodations Coordinator Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates 3624 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA (215) 386-5900

Instructions regarding Step 3 test accommodations requests are available at the USMLE website (www.usmle.org) and the FSMB website (www.fsmb.org).

Test Accommodations

Test accommodations include but are not limited to the following:

- Assistance with keyboard tasks
- Audio rendition
- · Extended testing time
- Additional break time
- Enlarged text and graphics
- · Permission for assistive devices

Score Reporting

USMLE policy requires annotation of score reports and transcripts for Step administrations for which test accommodations were used. Score recipients who inquire about the annotation will be provided with information about the nature of the test accommodation only.

How to Submit a Request for Test Accommodations

If you have a documented disability covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and require test accommodations, you must notify the USMLE in writing each time you apply for Step 1, Step 2 CK or Step 2 CS. The forms described below are available at the USMLE website (www.usmle.org).

New Requests

Submit a completed form, Step 1 and Step 2 CK Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations or Step 2 CS Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations to the above address at the same time you submit your examination application.

Subsequent Request for Test Accommodations

If you received test accommodations for a previous USMLE Step (Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS) and would like the identical accommodations, please submit the following form(s) to the above address at the same time you send your examination application. This form constitutes your official notification.

- Form for Requesting Subsequent Test Accommodations (Step 1 and Step 2 CK only)
- Form for Requesting Subsequent Test Accommodations (Step 2 CS)

If you are requesting a change in accommodations or are previously approved for Step 1 or Step 2 CK but have not been approved for Step 2 CS, follow the instructions for New Requests above.

Certification of Prior Test Accommodations

If you received test accommodations in Medical School submit a completed Certification of Prior Test Accommodations to the above address along with your Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations.

DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Original documents; keep the original and submit a copy
- · Research articles, resumes, curriculum vitas
- Handwritten letters from physicians or evaluators
- · Documentation previously submitted to Disability Services
- · Documentation previously submitted to your registration entity
- Previous correspondence from Disability Services
- Multiple copies of documentation (i.e., faxed and mailed copies of a document)
- Staples, clips, binders, page protectors, folders, or similar items
- Please note that submitting duplicate documentation and/or bound documentation may delay a decision regarding your request as all documentation must be processed.

DO SUBMIT:

- Legible copies
- · All documents in English. You are responsible for providing certified English translations of foreign-language documentation
- · Typed or printed letters and reports from evaluators
- Documentation from childhood if you are requesting accommodations based on a developmental disorder,
 i.e. LD, ADHD, Dyslexia
- · Documentation of your functional impairment in activities beyond test-taking
- · Documentation of your functional impairment beyond self-report



UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION™ (USMLE™)

Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge Applicant's Request for Test Accommodations

You MUST provide supporting documentation verifying your functional impairment. In order to document your need for accommodation as completely as possible, please attach:

- Evaluation reports of appropriate professionals printed on letterhead and signed by the evaluator(s)
- * Primary documentation (report cards, teacher notes, behavioral observations, medical records, lab reports, etc.)
- " A personal statement describing your disability and it's impact on your daily life and educational functioning. Do not confine your comments to standardized test performance; rather discuss your overall functioning.

Read documentation information on page 4.

Please note: NBME will acknowledge receipt of your request and audit your request for completeness. Submission of incomplete or illegible request forms and/or insufficient supporting documentation will slow the processing of your request. You may be asked to complete your request in a timely manner by submitting additional documentation.

Information regarding the granting or denial of test accommodations will not be released via telephone. All official communications regarding your request will be made in writing. Should you wish to modify or withdraw a request for test accommodations, please contact Disability Services at 215-590-9509.

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Accompodati	ions are requested for the following Step exam	unation (Use a separate form for	each exam).
Step	1 Step 2 Clinical Knowledge	Step 2 Clinical Skills	Year: 2009
	Biographical Information		
1. Name: <u>C</u>	ockburn Step	hen	<i>H.</i>
	Last	First	Middle Initial
2. Gender:	Male Female		
3. Date of Bir	th:		
4. SS#	(if known)	5. USMLE # <u>5</u> - <u>2</u>	20.7776
6. Address:	2544 ROSS Rd A	4. #103	
	Street S. Nel Splins City	mn	20910
	City 4.5.	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
	Country 9 368 - 6904		,
	Daytime Telephone Number		
	Alternate Telephone Number		
	Jun 427 @ hotmail. Lo	<u>m</u>	
	E-mail address		
7) 6 P . 10 1	nool: Howard Univers	- : ,	
7. Medical Sch	1001: HOVERU MAINERS	174	RECEIVED
	(0	Over)	APR 2 2 2009
			· •
			Disability Services

Section B: Nature of Disability

8. Indicate the nature of the disability and the year	r it was first professionally	liagnosed (select all that ap	ply):
Sensory Impairments: Hearing Disability		☐ Visual Disability	
Learning Impairments: Reading Disability	41718	Writing Disability	4/7/48
Mathematics Disability	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	Other:	-
Language Impairments: Receptive Language Disorder		Expressive Language Disorder	CARACTER ST.
Mixed Receptive/Expressive Language Disorder	-	Other:	
Medical Impairments: Mobility/Motor		Diabetes/Thyroid Dysfunction	
Epilepsy/Neurological		Other:	
Mental Health /Executive Function Impairments: Anxiety Disorder		Mood Disorder/	
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder		Other:	
Section C: Accommodations Information			
	commodation(s) must be applicable time it takes me nation then me	ble do	
11. If you are requesting additional testing or break tone per Step).	ime, please indicate the amo	ount of time requested (circ	le no more than
STEP 1:			
Additional Break Time over 1 day Additional Testing Time – Time and one-ha Other (please specify):		Break Time over 2 days Testing Time – Double Ti	m e
(Cont	inued on the next page)		

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STEP 2:	
Additional Break Time over 2 days Additional Testing Time - Double T Other (please specify):	Additional Testing Time - Time and one-half
12. Do you require wheelchair access at the ex	amination facility?
yes yes	no no
If you require an adjustable height table, p	lease indicate the number of inches from the floor:
Section D: Accommodation History	
13. Prior classroom or test accommodations that	at you have received:
A. Standardized Examinations	☑ yes ☐ no
Medical College Admission	Test (MCAT):
Month/Year 4/06	
Accommodation received	Time e a half
(If extra time, note amount gi	/en)
Other: SAT	
Month/Year	
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(If extra time, note amount gi	ven)
B. Medical School	☑ yes ☐ no
Accommodation received	xtra time (Doubletime)
Date Approved 10-14 A	orosed (spring 04)
If yes, have an appropriate official at y Accommodations form.	our medical school complete the Certification of Prior Test
C. College	yes 🔲 no
If yes, accommodations receive	a Pouble time for test E Quizer
D. Secondary or elementary school	☑ yes □ no
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Disability Services

14. Authorization:

I authorize the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to contact the entities identified in Section D of this request form, and the professionals identified in the documentation I am submitting in connection with it, to obtain any or all of the following: confirmation, clarification, and/or further information. I authorize such entities and professionals to provide NBME with all requested confirmation, clarification, and further information.

Signature: Mary Deft

Date: 4/21/09

DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Original documents; keep the original and submit a copy
- · Research articles, resumes, curriculum vitas
- Handwritten letters from physicians or evaluators
- Handwritten letters from physicians or evaluators
- Documentation previously submitted to Disability Services
- Documentation previously submitted to your registration entity
- Previous correspondence from Disability Services
- Multiple copies of documentation (i.e., faxed and mailed copies of a document)
- Staples, clips, binders, page protectors, folders, or similar items

Please note that submitting duplicate documentation and/or bound documentation may delay a decision regarding your request as all documentation must be processed.

DO SUBMIT:

- Legible copies
- All documents in English. You are responsible for providing certified English translations of foreign-language documentation
- Typed or printed letters and reports from evaluators
- Documentation from childhood if you are requesting accommodations based on a developmental disorder, i.e. LD,
 ADHD, Dyslexia
- Documentation of your functional impairment in activities beyond test-taking
- Documentation of your functional impairment beyond self-report

Mail your completed questionnaire and documents to:

Students / Graduates of US & Canadian Medical Schools Testing Coordinator, Disability Services, National Board of Medical Examiners, 3750 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3190. 215-590-9509

Students / Graduates of International Medical Schools
Test Accommodations Coordinator, Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA.

Please keep a copy of your completed request form for your records.

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Disability Services



To whom it may concern,

This is a packet in regard to request extra time on the USMLE step 1. I am currently a 2nd year medical student at Howard school of medicine. The reason for me asking for extra time on this exam is due to the fact that I have a reading disorder. The main problem with this disorder is that it takes me longer than most people to read a piece of information, internalize it, and interpret the information. This places me at a huge disadvantage in comparison to other students. Class and test performance has always been a major struggle in my academic career. However, I was not diagnosed with a learning disability until my junior year in high school. After receiving extra time, my test scores received a modest increase however it wasn't until I reached my freshman year in college where I began to see significant improvement. My university granted me extra time and my grades were very reflective of that. When it came to the point of taking the MCAT, I tried to get extra time but was rejected the first time. My grades were good and I thought to myself that since I have done well in my classes that I would have no problem taking the MCAT regular time since it is the same sciences that I have been studying during my matriculation at NCCU. Again I was mistaken. I took the test three times and each time my score was considerably under the 20s. After taking the MCAT for a third time and being unsuccessful, I came to the conclusion that this as well as other standardized test was not just a regurgitation of the past 4 years but a detailed and complex presentation of what I had seen in my college career. For me the MCAT was new information that mixed with material that I should know and because of this I once again would have to read the passages, access what is going on in the passage and then answer the questions. For this I needed extra time. I received a second evaluation from Dr. Fillipowski and was told that my reading disability had gotten worse. Now it takes me longer than before to run through the information in my head to get to the appropriate answer. With this new information I was given time and half on the MCATs and had a 12 point increase. This score got me accepted to ECU and Howard University. Now in medical school I still struggle because due this reading disability it takes longer to go through volumes of information that is required for medical school. I get double time at Howard for all of my test, quizzes, and lab practical's. I have also joined a study group where we teach each other certain concepts as opposed to reading a 100 page chapter. One of my study group members takes my notes for me so that I can focus on what the professor is saying and not worry about writing and listening at the same time. Due to my reading disability I only get through lectures on an average twice (sometimes once) and I have performed on tests and practical's with passing grades. I realize that if I did not have double time on my tests I would not be able to finish them. On an average test day, I am up at 5 to study and then take a small groups test from 8-10 (the normal test length is 8-9). Then I have the written exam portion that for is from 1-6(normally this is a 2 and half to three hour test). In conclusion, I am requesting double time for the USMLE step 1 because of my reading disability and because with out it not only am I at a significant disadvantage to other students, but I know that if I have to take it in a regular time frame I will not be able to finish the test let alone pass. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you,

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Disability Services

Stephen Cockburn MII Howard College of medicine (919)368-6904 Lung27@hotmail.com

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Disability Services

RAVENSCROFT SCHOOL 7409 Falls of the Neuse Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27615



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST RECORD

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RAVENSCROFT SCHOOL FOUNDED 1862

	Student Name:						Birthdate:
		Joscolyn G		na ·			Social Security Number:
		7209 Fonts					Gender: Male
		Raleigh, N	C 27615				Date of Graduation: 06/05/1999
Year		SEM	SEM	YEAR			
1995	English I	C	B-	C+	1.00		Lowest Numerical Equivalent
to	Algebra I	C-	C	C	1.00		A/93 B/86 C/78 D/70
1996	H. Biology	C	C	C	1.00		AP and Honors Courses
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1990	Geometry	C-	C-	C+	1.00		Quintile: 5 Mitter 8
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September 16, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that as a student at Ravenscroft School, Stephen Cockburn did qualify for and receive accommodations for extended time from the end of the tenth grade through twelfth grade. Stephen was diagnosed with a reading disability at the time in addition to a large discrepancy between his verbal and processing speed. We no longer have his testing documentation on file at Ravenscroft, but I did teach him and as program coordinator saw to it that he utilized the accommodation during all testing.

Please feel free to contact me at 847-0900 extension 2270 should you have any questions.

Sincerely.

((

Janet D. Smyll Janet D. Smith, M.Ed.

Academic Skills Coordinator

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Disability Services





Director of Student Support Services

December 19, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to inform you that Mr. Stephen Cockburn did receive accommodations while a student at North Carolina Central University (2000-2003). He had a good working relationship with his instructors and did not feel the need to request services through our Office of Student Support Services. Mr. Cockburn discussed his disability with his individual professors, who, in turn, allowed him extended time and a quiet setting to take his exams.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

((

Dr. James B. Fuller, Director Student Support Services

and B Fuller

(919) 530-6325 jbfuller@nccu.edu

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Disability Services

UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Office of the Dean for Special Student Services



ACCOMMODATION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Faculty Teaching Steven Cockburn
FROM:	Apriana Bullock,
	Administrative Assistant
DATE:	Tuesday January 13, 2009

SEMESTER: Spring 2009

Steven Cockburn (ID@02592087) has provided documentation to this office of a disability that affects his academic performance. Howard University is committed to complying with both the letter and spirit of the law, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Please be aware that these laws specifically require that disabled students be afforded reasonable accommodations as recommended by an appropriately licensed clinician. This letter is not retroactive. Letters will go into effect the day that it is given to the professor. The Office of the Dean for Special Student Services receives and reviews those accommodations and informs faculty as appropriate of the resulting accommodations that must be provided. Therefore, you are hereby notified of Mr. Cockburn's accommodations:

1. Extended time (double-time) on tests and examinations.

*Note: Please contact the Office of the Dean for Special Services or the ADA Coordinator in your school/college for all questions and concerns. Do not address concerns with student. Do not question student about the nature of his/her disability.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-238-2420.

Instructor Signature	Date received	
Please return to: Office of the Dean for	Special Students Services, Howard Center, and Suite 725	
Retain for your files		RECEIVED
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UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATIONTM (USMLETM) Certification of Prior Test Accommodations Disability Services (215) 598-9569

To be completed by a medical school official responsible for student disability services. Please type or print.

Applicant Name: Stephen H. Cockburn
USMLE ID#: 5 -2 2 0 -7 7 7 -6 Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Name Howard University College 1. I certify that of Medicine has officially approved and provided Name of Institution
the following test accommodations for the above applicant beginning on July 2007 Date (Month/Year)
Accommodation(s) provided: Extended (double) time on examinations. Reason for provision of accommodation(s): Reading/writing disability.
Signature Date April 16, 2009
(202) 806-9494
Telephone Number

Students / Graduates of US & Canadian Med. Schools

Mail or fax* this form to: Testing Coordinator, Disability Services National Board of Medical Examiners 3750 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-3190

Fax Number: (215) 590-9422 * (call to verify receipt)

Phone Number: (215) 590-9509

1

Students / Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools

Mail or fax this form to:
Test Accommodations Coordinator
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

Fax Number: (215) 386-6327 Phone Number: (215) 386-5900

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APR 2.2 2003

Disability Services



College of Medicine Office of the Dean

1839497 5-228-777-6 Houard Univ-Testing Recom

July 13, 2009

Disability Service Attn: Maria National Board of Medical Examiners 3750 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-3102

To Whom It May Concern:

For over the past two years Mr. Cockburn qualified for and has received special accommodations from the Howard University College of Medicine for all tests, quizzes, and lab exams. His accommodations included extra time (double time) and a separate quiet room. During the times that I have personally proctored Mr. Cockburn, he has often used the entire extra time to complete his exams. Mr. Cockburn attests that extra time (double time) is a much needed accommodation that allows him to be successful in his medical training. I wish him a very successful career in Medicine.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Satterlund
Director- Office of Curriculum
Howard University College of Medicine
4308 P.G. Adams Building
520 "W" St., NW
Washington, D.C.
202-806-9703
ssatterlund@howard.edu

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Disability Services

